

In the Drawings:

Applicants herein amended FIGS. 3-4 by substituting the originally submitted drawings with the attached one (1) drawing sheet. No new subject matter is introduced through this amendment.

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 2, 2008 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the specification, drawings and claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 20-37 and 39-72 are currently pending, including independent claims 20, 29, 39, 48, and 60. In particular, Applicants have amended claims 20-37; cancelled claim 38, and added new claims 39-72 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present application. It is respectfully submitted that the amendment and claim additions adds no new subject matter to the present application and serves only to place the present application in better condition for examination. Therefore, entry of the amendment and reconsideration and allowance of claims 20-37 and 39-72 are respectfully requested. In particular, it is believed that all grounds for rejection in the Office Action have been addressed and that the present application is currently in condition for allowance in view of the amendment and the following arguments.

Claim Allowance

Applicants wish to express great appreciation for the official notice given in the Office Action that claims 20-38 include allowable subject matter and would be allowed if amended to address the formality objections/rejections. As described below, Applicants believe that all formal grounds for rejection of claims 20-37 have been addressed (claim 38 was cancelled), as described below. Applicants further urge that new claims 39-72

correspond to allowed claims 20-37, and although different in scope, should be allowed on a similar basis.

Objection to the Drawings:

The Office Action objected to the FIG. 4 in the drawings for containing colors. Applicants herein amended FIG. 4 to depict a first curve with a solid line and to depict a second curve using a dashed line. Similar correction has also been made to FIG. 3. Likewise, Applicants have amended the specification to reflect these changes. It is believed that this amendment adds no new matter, and that the drawings are now in condition for examination. Withdrawal of this ground for objection is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Specification:

The Office Action objected to Specification due to minor formality problems. Applicants herein amended the specification to address the identified problems, as well as any other minor errors discovered in the review of the application. It is believed that this amendment also adds no new matter, and that the specification is now in condition for examination. Withdrawal of this ground for objection is respectfully requested.

Objection/Rejection of the Claims:

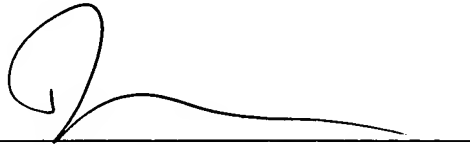
The Office Action further objected to or rejected allowable claims 20-38 on formal grounds. Due to the numerous grounds for objection/rejection, the specific grounds are not repeated herein. Applicants have amended claims 20-37 to address each of the specific grounds for objection/rejection raised in the Office Action. Applicants believe that the amendments do not add any new subject matter to the present application and instead serve merely to clarify the recited subject matter. In particular, Applicants have attempted to amend the claims as requested to clarify the subject matter of the present application. If any additional amendments are deemed necessary to address these or other formality concerns, Applicants respectfully request that the undersigned representative be contacted to discuss these additional claim amendments.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the claims 20-37 and 39-72 recites allowable subject matter, as expressed in the Office Action, and that all grounds for rejection/objection to the pending application have been addressed in this Response. It is therefore respectfully requested that these pending rejections be withdrawn, and this application be pass to issue with the allowance of pending claims 20-37 and 39-72.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned representative at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'David D. Nelson', written over a horizontal line.

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Enclosures: Replacement Figs. 3-4 (1 sheet)
Additional Claims Transmittal
Check No. 018470